

Dear Office of Child Care Director,

The Shawnee Tribe plans to use the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA) Funds in the following way:

DIRECT CHILD CARE SERVICES (Subsidies):

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services, including child care subsidy to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farm, and other food service workers, and/or workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus?

YES - The Shawnee Tribe plans to provide direct childcare services to those deemed essential. Essential workers will include frontline workers such as health care sector employees, emergency responders, food service workers/suppliers and sanitation workers. These families will be classified under protective services and service will be provided without regard to family income. Applicants will complete an Essential Worker Declaration which would include federal essential worker classifications. Information about the availability of childcare service for essential workers will be shared throughout the service area. Further guidance is needed from our Federal partners to finalize plans.

IMPLEMENTATION OF VIRUS MITIGATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES:

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies and/or technical assistance to child care providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)?

YES - CRRSA funds will provide support to Child Care Providers through resources, supplies, and/or technical assistance grants to implement health and safety practices as indicated by State and local health departments and the CDC. Providers may apply for cleaning and sanitation grants, PPE, and other grants

as needed to meet specific healthy and safety guidelines. Further guidance is needed from our Federal partners to finalize plans.

GRANTS OR ASSISTANCE (Other Than Subsidies) TO STABILIZE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to support the stability of the child care sector to help child care providers (program facilities and workforce) pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency?

YES – Stabilization grants will be given to providers to support the stability of the childcare to help childcare providers pay for increased operating expenses and decreased income because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Further guidance is needed from our Federal partners to finalize plans.

ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBSIDY PROGRAM PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC:

As required in CRRSA, how does the lead agency plan to use a portion of funds appropriated in CRRSA to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible child care providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

As required, a portion of the CRRSA funds will be appropriated to assist those childcare providers who, prior to COVID-19, were eligible but not receiving CCDF subsidy. These funds may be given as health and safety grants or stabilization grants. Further guidance is needed from our Federal partners to finalize plans.

OTHER:

The Shawnee Tribe plans to use a portion of CRRSA childcare funds for the following activities:

- A portion of CRRSA funds will be used to implement natural outdoor learning environments and outdoor classrooms.
- CRRSA funds will also be used to support the recruitment, education, and stipends to increase the availability of qualified childcare staff.

Further guidance is needed from our Federal partners to finalize plans.

Sincerely,

**Diana Baker
Shawnee Tribe
CCDF Assistant Director**